

Lake Powell Branch Update - Monday, August 17, 2015

EPA Sampling Activity:

At the request of the City of Page, Arizona, today EPA and START sampled the drinking water intake in Lake Powell. The City would like to discuss the need for periodic sampling of its drinking water intake in the foreseeable future.

Lake Powell:

The Lake Powell Branch met with NPS today to plan the objectives and logistics of the upcoming USGS/NPS sampling expedition beginning at the end of this week, and plans to make a Resource Request in support of this twelve day expedition.

State of Utah San Juan River Water Quality Analysis and Announcements:

The Utah DEQ Division of Water Quality has been providing its Gold King Release San Juan River Sampling data to EPA for our own analysis and review, and this data is being forwarded to Harry Allen, Ned Black and Gerry Hiatt.

EPA LNO Bill Robberson and EPA Region 9 WQ Data representatives Harry Allen and Ned Black held another conference call with Dr. Erica Gaddis, Assistant Director of the Utah Division of Water Quality, Utah Department of Environmental Quality, with the purpose of collaborating on the interpretation of all available San Juan River response sampling data.

EPA is participating in the daily Utah DWQ - led "Agency Situation Update" Conference Call at 0700 PDT, and we will also be participating in a new daily "Data Interpretation" conference call with Utah DWQ and others at 2PM (1400) PDT / 3PM (1500) MDT.

Utah DWQ anticipates posting both graphs of its data and explanations of this data tonight, Monday, August 17th. Utah DWQ data can be accessed at the following URL:

<http://www.deq.utah.gov/Topics/Water/goldkingmine/index.htm>

CONTINUED: Request for Data from the Navajo Nation:

One set of data that Utah DWQ would like to access is the historic data from Navajo Nation in the San Juan River. With a larger historic dataset they expect to be able to tease out the storm effects on their most recent sampling data. They have asked Navajo Nation directly, and the reply was positive, but they have not seen the data yet, they believe, because Navajo Nation has been busy with other things this week. The Farmington ICP is aware of the request and reportedly working on it.

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CONTINUED: Request for EPA POC to discuss San Juan River Data Collaboration with Utah DWQ Director

The Director of the State of Utah Division of Water Quality, Utah Department of Environmental Quality, Mr. Walt Baker, would like to speak to someone at EPA regarding the desire to collaborate on gathering and interpretation of San Juan River sampling data and related Agency water quality monitoring information.

The State of Utah has been very progressive in their monitoring and sampling activities in response to the Gold King release, and they would:

1. Appreciate the opportunity to have early access to EPA sampling data to build a better picture of the status of the San Juan, and
2. DWQ would like to consider a partnership with EPA on a long-term assessment of the San Juan and perhaps Lake Powell.

An email request has been sent to the Farmington ICP (Bret Moxley) with a cc to others. Please keep the Lake Powell Branch aware of progress in fulfilling this important request.

Utah U.S. Congressman Rob Bishop Visit on Monday, August 17th:

Congressman Rob Bishop visited the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area today. This trip was scheduled prior to the Gold King Mine incident and it provided an opportunity for the NPS and EPA to provide an update. EPA Lake Powell Branch LNO Robberson participated and provided the Congressman (and Chair of the House Natural Resources Committee) with a briefing of EPA's response to the Gold King Mine release. Photos will be forthcoming.